

## The generic names of the British Weevils (Col.) explained

For the British list I follow Morris, 2003; except in not, for present purposes, splitting up the 'supergen' *Apion*. names of introduced exotics are mostly omitted. Again, apart from eponyms, the language of derivation is neo-classical Greek, with rare exceptions (*Involvulus*, *Curculio* – Latin). Subgenera are ignored.

The most distinctive feature of these beetles is generally the *rostrum* (Latin, 'that which gnaws' – cf. *rodent* etc); its degree of development varies greatly from very short and stout (many genera) to very long and thin (*Curculio*).

A few genera are out of order, which will not matter.

<i>Cimberis</i> and <i>Anthribus</i>	no meaning can be assigned.
<i>Platyrhinus</i>	broad nose.
<i>Tropideres</i>	keel neck – from the pronotal keel.
<i>Platystomos</i>	broad mouth (for <i>Platystoma</i> , which is preoccupied).
<i>Dissoleucas</i>	doubled, and white; our species is <i>D. niveirostris</i> ('snowy beak', to which the name must allude).
<i>Choragus</i>	the leader of the chorus, i.e. dance, in ancient Greek drama; from the insect's saltatory habits. (cf. <i>Orchestes</i> .)
<i>Bruchela</i>	probably 'varacious', cf. the family Bruchidae.
<i>Attelabus</i>	the immature stage of a locust (Aristotle).
<i>Apoderus</i>	<i>apo</i> 'away from', <i>deré</i> 'neck', the pronotum and elytra being well set-off from each other.
<i>Rhynchites</i>	having a beak or snout. (The suffix is the same as our <i>-ite</i> .) <i>Lasiorrhynchites</i> is 'hairy <i>Rhynchites</i> '.
<i>Involvulus</i>	hardly clear, but seems intended for 'little (inward) roller' (? of leaves), though actually our two species develop in berries ( <i>Crataegus</i> , <i>Sorbus</i> ).
<i>Lasiorrhynchites</i>	hairy or shaggy <i>Rhynchites</i> (see next but one).
<i>Neocoenorrhinus</i>	new <i>Coenorrhinus</i> (subgenus of <i>Deporaus</i> ).
<i>Temnocerus</i>	'cut-horn', perhaps referring to division of antennal segments.
<i>Byctiscus</i>	'a little show-off or blusterer', from the bright colouring. (Same diminutive suffix in <i>asterisk</i> , <i>basilisk</i> .)
<i>Deporaus</i>	no meaning can be assigned – an invented name.
<i>Apion</i>	a pear, from the general shape.
<i>Ferreria</i>	an eponym replacing <i>Raymondionymus</i> (for which we may be thankful).
<i>Archarius</i>	nothing suggests itself. The better-known name, <i>Balanobius</i> , is 'acorn dweller', and it is a pity it cannot prevail.
<i>Curculio</i>	Latin for weevil; the primary meaning is 'glutton'. Formerly <i>Balaninus</i> 'of acorns'.
<i>Acalyptus</i>	uncovered, probably referring to the pygidium.
<i>Anoplus</i>	unarmed (Greek <i>hoplon</i> , a weapon); from the complete lack of tarsal claws unique among our weevils.
<i>Anthonomus</i>	browsing on flowers (certain species can be destructive).
<i>Brachonyx</i>	for <i>Brachyonyx</i> 'short claw'.
<i>Miarus</i>	stained, defiled, corrupt. (No reason for name.)
<i>Rhinusa</i>	Greek stem <i>rhin-</i> 'nose' (cf. <i>rhinoceros</i> ).
<i>Orchestes</i>	a dancer or leaper. (Our 'orchestra' is anciently 'dance floor'.)
<i>Pseudorchestes</i>	false dancer, because here the power of leaping is only slight, or all events less.
<i>Rhamphus</i>	a beak, though the rostrum is held folded under the body when not in use.
<i>Rhynchaenus</i>	terrible beak(!). Whether Clairville intended this literal sense may be doubted.
<i>Tachyerges</i>	a rapid worker, or fast-working.
<i>Smicronyx</i>	small claw.
<i>Pachytychius</i>	thick <i>Tychius</i> (q.v.)
<i>Orthochaetes</i>	(having) straight setae.

<i>Pseudostyphlus</i>	'false' and 'hard, rugged, rough'; the simple <i>Styphlus</i> is an exotic genus.
<i>Sibinia</i>	a hunting spear; application fanciful.
<i>Tychius</i>	derived from <i>tychē</i> 'chance'; equally fanciful.
<i>Bagous</i> (-ō-us)	'An eunuch at the Persian court' (Smith's Latin Dictionary).
<i>Baris</i>	a sort of raft or primitive boat; the genus is semi-aquatic.
<i>Limnobaris</i>	'marsh or lake <i>Baris</i> '.
<i>Amalus</i>	weak.
<i>Calosirus</i>	'beautiful pit', with reference to some structural character.
<i>Ceutorhynchus</i>	'hidden beak', the rostrum being tucked under the body in repose. (The first element should have been <i>ceutho-</i> , related to our 'hide'.)
<i>Coeliodes</i>	'of hollow aspect'; reason for name unclear.
<i>Coeliodinus</i>	formed from the last (very closely allied to it).
<i>Datonychus</i>	first element obscure, second <i>onyx</i> 'a nail or claw'.
<i>Drupenatus</i> ,	
<i>Ethelcus</i> , <i>Glocianus</i>	a trio of inventions by Reitter.
<i>Hadroplontus</i>	stout or strong weapon ( <i>hoplon</i> ) plus a formative suffix.
<i>Micrelus</i>	arbitrary extension of <i>mikros</i> 'small'.
<i>Microplontus</i>	'small weapon', cf. <i>Hadroplontus</i> above.
<i>Mogulones</i>	'troublesome, difficult' (which certainly does not apply to any of our three species). The first syllable alone meaningful.
<i>Nedys</i>	'a paunch, belly': the beetle is more convex beneath.
<i>Parerhelcus</i>	'alongside <i>Ethelcus</i> ', a neighbouring genus.
<i>Poophagus</i>	'eating or feeding on <i>Poa</i> ', earlier considered the foodplant.
<i>Sirocalodes</i>	'resembling <i>Calosirus</i> ' (above), with the latter's elements transposed.
<i>Stenocarus</i>	narrow head.
<i>Tapeinotus</i>	humbled, brought low (but the weevil is far from obscure).
<i>Thamiocolus</i>	first element 'crowded close', second apparently 'segment'.
<i>Trichosirocalus</i>	haired <i>Calosirus</i> (see above).
<i>Zacladus</i>	'much branched', a name of doubtful application.
<i>Mononychus</i>	(having) one claw (to each tarsus) – a most unusual character.
<i>Eubrychius</i>	a good sailor, from its surface-swimming character.
<i>Neophytobius</i>	'new plant-dweller' (genus split off from <i>Phytobius</i> ).
<i>Pelenomus</i>	a new name for the familiar <i>Phytobius</i> , of doubtful meaning.
<i>Phytobius</i>	'plant-living', formerly <i>Litodactylus</i> .
<i>Rhinoncus</i>	'swollen nose', from a thickening of the rostrum.
<i>Rutidosoma</i>	for <i>Rhytidosoma</i> , 'wrinkled or shrivelled body'.
<i>Cossonus</i>	nothing clear can be suggested.*
<i>Rhopalomesites</i>	' <i>Mesites</i> with a club' (reference to antennae of femora?)
<i>Caulophilus</i>	'stalk-loving' (Latin plus Greek), from its habits.
<i>Pselactus</i>	seems to combine the idea of groping (as in <i>Pselaphus</i> ) with that of the seashore (aktē); the beetle lives in decaying breakwaters.
<i>Pseudophloeophagus</i>	literally 'false bark-eater'.
<i>Stereocorynes</i>	solid club, with reference to the antennae.
<i>Pentarthrum</i>	five-jointed (of tarsi).
<i>Macrorhyncholus</i>	long or large <i>Rhyncholus</i> .
<i>Rhyncholus</i>	for <i>Rhyncholus</i> , but second element obscure or arbitrary.
<i>Phloeophagus</i>	bark-eating.
<i>Cryptorhynchus</i>	hidden rostrum.
<i>Acalles</i>	without beauty.
<i>Sternochetus</i>	probably 'with bristles (chaetae) on the breast (sternum)'.
<i>Gronopus</i> (= <i>Alophus</i> )	'written on'; fresh specimens are prettily variegated.
<i>Neliocarus</i>	it seems barely possible to extract a meaning from compound.
<i>Strophosoma</i>	'round body' ( <i>strophos</i> 'a turn').

<i>Attagenus</i>	for <i>Atactogenus</i> 'out of order'; perhaps meaning 'anomalous' but the weevil is not noticeably so.
<i>Philopedon</i>	ground-loving.
<i>Barynotus</i>	'heavy back', from the robust build.
<i>Omiamima</i>	'mimicking <i>Omius</i> ', an allied genus.
<i>Otiorhynchus</i>	'snout with little ears', from the slight dilatations at apex of rostrum.
<i>Caenopsis</i>	'new look'; may be interpreted according to taste.
<i>Peritelus</i>	'around the end', with reference to scaling?
<i>Phyllobius</i>	living on leaves.
<i>Liothloesus</i>	'smooth bark'; from its appearance.
<i>Polydrusus</i>	'much dew', assuming <i>-drusus</i> to be intended for <i>-drosus</i> ; the often lustrous scales may have suggested the name.
<i>Barypeithes</i>	hard to persuade (to move?)
<i>Brachysomus</i>	for <i>Brachysoma</i> , 'short body'.
<i>Sciaphilus</i>	shade-loving.
<i>Sitona</i>	a corn merchant. The form <i>Sitones</i> was much in use earlier.
<i>Tanymecus</i>	'extended in length', from its shape.
<i>Trachyphloeus</i>	'rough bark', from the surface appearance often presented.
<i>Cathormiocerus</i>	'necklace-horned', i.e. with the funicular segments moniliform.
<i>Tropiphorus</i>	keel-bearing.
<i>Hypera</i>	seems intended for 'raised above', but why?
<i>Limobius</i>	for <i>Limonobius</i> , meadow-living'.
<i>Larinus</i>	fat or fatted, rich.
<i>Lixus</i>	no meaning can be assigned.
<i>Bothynoderes</i>	'neck (pronotum) with a pit or fovea'.
<i>Cleonis</i>	famous; cf. Greek names in <i>-cles</i> , e.g. Pericles.
<i>(Cleonus auct.)</i>	'dusty or powdery <i>Cleonus</i> ', from the natural dust secreted on the surface.
<i>Coniocleonus</i>	'bent or crooked nose' (rostrum), with the epithet awkwardly placed second.
<i>Rhinocyllus</i>	a crumb (not very descriptive!).
<i>Liparus</i>	fat, rich (these are large weevils).
<i>Leiosoma</i>	smooth body.
<i>Mitoplithus</i>	'thread brick'; the reader may make what he will of this!
<i>Anchonidium</i>	a little halter (but why?).
<i>Hylobius</i>	living on wood or in woods.
<i>Lepyrus</i>	a shell, husk, or rind (reason for name obscure).
<i>Syagrius</i>	a wild pig or boar.
<i>Pissodes</i>	resembling pitch (of surface appearance).
<i>Trachodes</i>	appearing rough.
<i>Orobites</i>	feeding on the plant <i>Orobis</i> .
<i>Scolytus</i>	an old name, but not classical, and meaning can be assigned.
<i>Pityophthorus</i>	pine destroyer.
<i>Cryphalus</i>	tending to hide (cf. 'cryptic').
<i>Ernopus</i>	burrowing in shoots.
<i>Ernopicus</i>	a mere extension of the last, for distinction.
<i>Trypophloeus</i>	burrowing in bark.
<i>Crypturgus</i>	hidden worker, or working secretly.
<i>Dryocoetes</i>	lying in oak trees.
<i>Dryocoetinus</i>	a mere extension of the last, from which it is barely distinct.
<i>Lymantor</i>	a destroyer.
<i>Taphrotychus</i>	a gravedigger, from the workings under bark.
<i>Xylocleptes</i>	wood-thief.

<i>Ips</i>	a woodworm (like <i>Cis</i> ).
<i>Orthotomicus</i>	straight <i>Tomicus</i> (see below).
<i>Pityogenes</i>	breeding in pine or fir.
<i>Xyleborus</i>	wood-eating.
<i>Trypodendron</i>	boring in trees. ( <i>Xyloterus</i> : boring in wood).
<i>Hylesinus</i>	wood-destroying or -destroyer.
<i>Hylastinus</i>	an extension of <i>Hylastes</i> (below).
<i>Kissophagus</i>	ivy-eater.
<i>Leperisinus</i>	first element an invention of Reitter's, second 'destroyer'.
<i>Pteleobius</i>	living in or in lime trees.
<i>Hylastes</i>	a woodman or forester.
<i>Hylurgops</i>	resembling <i>Hylurgus</i> , a wood worker.
<i>Phloeotribus</i>	literally bark-rubber, i.e. damaging bark.
<i>Phloeosinus</i>	bark-destroyer. (cf. <i>Sinodendron</i> , <i>Hylesinus</i> .)
<i>Polygraphus</i>	'much writing', from the broad-galleries under bark (fanciful resemblance).
<i>Tomicus</i>	a cutter, for the same reason.
<i>Dendroctonus</i>	tree-killing or -killer.
<i>Xylechinus</i>	'wood hedgehog' (somewhat fanciful).
<i>Tanysphyrus</i>	long hammer (hardly clear).
<i>Platypus</i>	broad foot (but it is the tibiae, not the tarsi, that are broad).

— A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

\* The editor has suggested that the name *Cossonus* might be derived from *cossus* – the larva from under bark eaten by the Romans as recorded by Pliny the Elder, c.60AD in his *Naturalis historia*.

### Observations on adult Fiery Clearwing *Pyropteron chrysidiformis* (Esper) (Lep.: Sesiidae) in south-west France

Although extremely localised and afforded legal protection in the UK, *Pyropteron chrysidiformis* is far more frequently encountered in the western part of Europe, its distributional range extending south to Gibraltar and east to Central Europe and including all of Italy. In the Balkans, it is replaced by the superficially similar *P. minianiformis* (Freyer). It is an extremely variable species, and this recently gave us some cause for concern as far as our local population at Graddé was concerned. Laštůvka & Laštůvka (2001. *The Sesiidae of Europe*. Apollo Books) record wingspans in the range 17 to 26 mm. In addition to typical examples, all of which had a "fiery" coloured vertex, smaller forms, with a wingspan as small as 13mm and often with the head covered in entirely black scales, are occasionally encountered. Following a moth-recording trip here by Colin Plant, Phil Jenner and Rachel Terry, a sample of both sexes of the various forms was taken away by Colin Plant for closer investigation; all hopes of a cryptic new species were dashed when, after he had examined the genitalia, he pronounced them all to be *chrysidiformis*!